

Application No. 10/803,138
Amendment dated November 1, 2005
Reply to Office Action of August 1, 2005

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please amend claims 1 and 3-5, and add new claims 8 and 9, as follows.

Listing of Claims

1. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A cheek and lip retractor for dentistry, comprising respective cheek portions and lip portions for the upper and lower lip, each of said lip portions comprising a lip shield and a pair of mucosa pads which are separate and spaced apart from said lip shield, each said lip shield defining a first surface for contacting the lip of a patient, each said mucosa pad defining a second surface facing opposite said first surface for contacting a mucous membrane of the patient, whereby the lip of the patient will be lifted and spaced from the teeth and gingival tissue when installed in the patient's mouth, each of said cheek portions and lip portions being connected to each [[other]] of said lip portions by a flexible connecting element[[s,]] and said connecting elements being disposed between said lip shield and one of said pair of mucosa [[pad]] pads.
2. (ORIGINAL) The retractor of claim 1, wherein said lip and cheek portions as well as said connecting elements are arranged in a curved plane.

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3. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The retractor of claim 1, wherein the point of support of said mucosa pads ~~[[on the]]~~ on a mucous membrane and the center line of said lip shield are located at a distance from each other.
4. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The retractor of claim 3, wherein said distance is ~~comprised between~~ in the range of approximately 10 mm ~~[[and]]~~ to approximately 30 mm.
5. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The retractor of claim 1, wherein ~~[[said]]~~ each pair of mucosa ~~[[pad]]~~ pads comprises a pair of rolls, each of which is arranged to be slipped on a respective holder ~~provided on~~ extending from said lip ~~[[portion]]~~ shield.
6. (ORIGINAL) The retractor of claim 1, wherein said cheek portions are in the form of flexible surfaces that are each connected to said connecting elements by a respective flexible web.
7. (ORIGINAL) The retractor of claim 1, wherein said connecting elements are arranged and designed such that in its applied state said lip portions perform an essentially translational movement when closing the mouth.

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8. (NEW) A cheek and lip retractor for dentistry, comprising:
- first and second cheek engaging portions; and
 - upper and lower lip portions;
 - each of said upper and lower lip portions comprising:
 - a lip shield, and
 - first and second mucosa pads,
 - each of said mucosa pads spaced from said lip shield a distance sufficient to space the lips of a person wearing the retractor from a mucous membrane so as to facilitate unobstructed access to the person's gingival tissue.
9. (NEW) The cheek and lip retractor of claim 8, wherein each said cheek portion is connected to said upper and lower lip portions by respective flexible connecting elements extending from said cheek portion to a position between said respective lip shield and said mucosa pads.